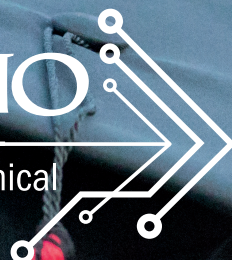


Centers For NEW DIRECTIONS

IDAHO

Career & Technical
Education



IDAHO SINGLE PARENT / DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS
cte.idaho.gov

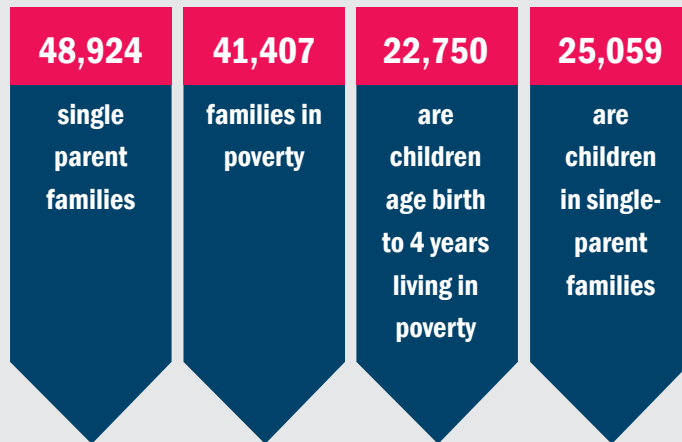
2019

Fiscal Year 2019

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Centers for New Directions are Idaho's specific effort to meet the employment readiness needs of single parents and displaced homemakers.

184,448 IDAHO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



¹ 2019 State Facts Data from Child Care America: <https://usa.childcareaware.org/>

Idaho's Single Parent / Displaced Homemaker Programs

Special populations face multiple barriers in being able to support themselves and/or their children. Barriers include limited job search experience, lack of skills, low motivation, poor self-concept, weak support base, lack of education, alcohol/drug abuse, depression, poverty, and a poor economy.

Less than half of Idaho's single parents are in the labor force, demonstrating a real need for Center of New Directions to connect these individuals with training and careers.

What is a "Displaced Homemaker"?

A Displaced Homemaker Is a Person Who:

- a:** worked in the home providing household services for family members, but who has lost the primary source of economic support and who must gain employment skills in order to earn a living; or
- b:** is a single parent with primary financial and custodial responsibility for supporting dependent children and who must gain employment skills in order to earn a living.

Idaho's Displaced Homemaker PROGRAMS

Centers for New Directions

The Idaho Career & Technical Education established six regional multi-purpose service centers, called Centers for New Directions (CND), to serve displaced homemakers based on the needs of each region through our technical college system: North Idaho College, Lewis-Clark State College, College of Western Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University College of Technology, and College of Eastern Idaho.

In FY2019, funding to support operations in the Centers for New Directions totaled \$130,002

Funding for Idaho's Centers for New Directions (CND) came from dedicated funds. Dedicated funds are generated by \$20 fee assessments for each filing of an action for divorce in Idaho.

FY20 reporting will include indirect funding of the CNDs through institutional and federal funds.

Services Provided:

Each center shall include the following services:

- **JOB COUNSELING SERVICES** designed for a displaced homemaker;
- **JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT SERVICES** developed in cooperation with public and private employers to train displaced homemakers for available jobs in the public and private sectors, taking into account the skills and job

experiences of a homemaker and to assist displaced homemakers in gaining admission to existing public and private job training programs; health education and counseling services with respect to general principles of preventative health care, mental health, alcohol and drug addiction and other related health care matters;

- **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES** which provide information and assistance with respect to insurance, taxes, estate and probate problems, mortgages, loans and other related financial matters; and
- **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES** including information about courses offering credit through secondary and postsecondary education programs and information about other services determined to be of interest and benefit to displaced homemakers.

Effectiveness of the Programs

The Centers for New Directions were instrumental in:

- Motivating participants to take action in their lives
- Eliminate self-defeating behavior patterns
- Adopt a more positive attitude toward work and school
- Develop the confidence to work
- Become financially self-sufficient

The significance of Centers for New Directions services is not merely the dollars saved, but the lives that have been transformed from dependency to self-sufficiency.

IN FY 2019 389

**SINGLE PARENT/DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS (SPDH)
QUALIFIED FOR FOLLOW-UP SERVICES
AND WERE POSITIVELY IMPACTED
BY THE CENTERS FOR NEW DIRECTIONS**

**OVER  64%
OF PARTICIPANTS ENTERED,
CONTINUED OR IMPROVED
THEIR WORK STATUS**

Cost of Child Care IN IDAHO

Single parents pay 33% of their income for infant care. Married parents of two children who live at the poverty line pay 69% of their income for center care. The cost of care for two children in Idaho is nearly twice the annual cost of college tuition at a four year college for center-based and home-based care.



33%
OF SINGLE PARENT INCOME
FOR **1** CHILD



62%
OF SINGLE PARENT INCOME
FOR **2** CHILDREN

Data Source: 2019 Child Care America



Success STORIES

The Centers for New Directions continually evaluate their programs and develop strategies to improve services. They develop unique programs that address specific needs in their regions. **Last year, CNDs offered over 200 workshops and community presentations which had over 100,091 contact hours with participants to prepare for employment and/or educational opportunities.** They also provided training in life skills and self-sufficiency.

Sara

Sarah (31) is a Native American, single mother of one child under 18 years of age. She has been an active student in a nontraditional by gender program at Lewis-Clark State College. She first visited the CND to get educational counseling, as she wanted to switch from a previous major to a CTE program. During the past school year, she was an active participant in the middle school visits as a mentor and example of a female in a non-traditional career. She gave eighth graders the message that females can do well in nontraditional by gender classes, as she has. She talked about the hand-eye coordination and attention to details a woman can bring to some of the hands-on CTE programs. She also encouraged the middle school students we visited to persevere in their math class, and not to give up; she told them that although she found math difficult, she is glad that she did not give up. She still has one more year to finish her degree.

Anne

Anne graduated from College of Eastern Idaho in May 2019 with an Associate's Degree in Computer Networking Technology. Her husband had passed away from cancer, leaving her a single parent of a toddler several years prior. Anne connected with CND when she first enrolled at CEI. During her time as a student, she received a variety of services, including CND SP/DH and Non-Trad student scholarships, study skills workshops, and winter coats for her and her daughter via the clothing boutique on campus. As she graduates and begins her career in the IT industry, she has significantly increased her earning potential, allowing her to provide for her and her child.

“I am so grateful to the Center for New Directions for helping with the resources that I need to get through my senior year here at College of Southern Idaho. I went through a difficult divorce during my time in the dental hygiene program and was in need of financial help. I travel to Twin Falls campus daily from Declo and the CND assisted me in receiving an Emergency Grant through the CSI Foundation provided monthly gas money to pay my overdue electric bill one month. School is stressful already and to have a greater financial burden placed on me because of a divorce and having to raise six children was difficult to say the least. I am so thankful that I was able to receive help so that I was able to focus on graduating so that I can provide for my family financially in the future. To the future students that may be a single parent or a career pioneer, I say go for it! Fulfill your dreams! CSI cares about the welfare of their students and want to see everyone succeed, especially those who need it the most.”

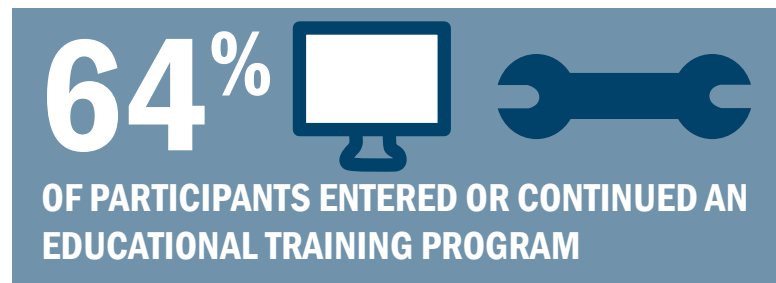
—CND Student, College of Southern Idaho

Participant Intake Demographics

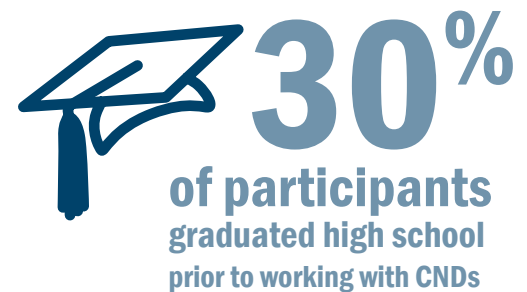
FOR ALL SITES



200 (approximately 51%)
EARNED < \$10,000
annually for their household



Data Source: Idaho Career & Technical Education 2019



35% of participants were
unemployed
prior to working with CNDs



The Centers for New Directions: A SMART INVESTMENT

Potential Cost Savings

The Centers for New Directions help single parents overcome barriers to success and assist them in obtaining skills needed to seek and find employment in order to support themselves and their families. Each time a single parent with two dependent children enters the labor market after having been on public assistance, there is a substantial savings to the state.

Investing in Idahoans

The Centers for New Directions enabled single parents and their families to leave welfare in FY2019 and join the workforce. In addition, employed center participants are now paying state taxes.

Idaho Centers for New Directions

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All Locations

In all Centers for New Directions, efforts are coordinated with Commerce, Labor, local Job Service offices, Health and Welfare offices, local workforce investment boards, correction facilities and the technical colleges in order to provide a comprehensive program to single parents and displaced homemakers. From the inception of the Centers for New Directions, Center staff has cooperated with local service providers to avoid duplication of services. The Centers play an integral part in the employment and training delivery system in their regions.



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